

JUNE 2015



PENTECOST AT GWENNAP PIT

A special ecumenical Pentecost service takes place at the historic Gwennap Pit at Busveal, near Redruth on Sunday, May 24th.

Not only is it Pentecost but it is Wesley Day, the anniversary of the conversion of Methodist founder John Wesley. It was on May 24th 1738 that Wesley was converted, famously recording in his journal that his heart was "strangely warmed". (John Wesley preached at Gwennap Pit on 18 occasions between 1762 and 1789).

Under the umbrella of Churches Together in Cornwall, the service, which commences at 3.00pm, will be preceded by a time of community hymn singing (from 2.30pm) led by Tony Jasper.

Guest preacher will be the Revd Steve Wild, Chairman of the Cornwall Methodist District and President Designate of the Methodist Conference; and the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, will be taking part. The singing will be accompanied by the Salvation Army Band (Cornwall Corps).

During the service Cornish playwright and actor, Tony Jasper, will be performing a short drama focusing on the conversion of John Wesley.

There is off-road parking (stewards will direct) for cars and small coaches. Large coaches may drop people off and collect after the service. Coaches are requested to approach the Pit from Carharrack.

If it rains the event will continue at Gwennap Pit, so please come prepared! This promises to be a memorable occasion and all are most welcome to come and join us.

Chairman - Bishop Tim Thornton
Vice Chairman - Reverend Steve Wild
CTC Missioner - David H Smith
Treasurer - Mike Cullen
Charity No 1053899
www.churchestogetherincornwall

An Invitation to all Churches Together Groups in Cornwall

Following the Churches Together in Cornwall "Declaration of Intent" workshops last November, I am inviting members of Churches Together local groups to at least 2 representatives to their local area Conference.

Bishop Tim, Chair of Churches Together in Cornwall

The Day Conferences will take place on:

Saturday, 19 September in Bodmin
Thursday, 24 September in Truro

The conferences aim to bring together representatives from all the CT groups in Cornwall, to support their work, build their capacity in terms of governance and support their social action and outreach.

Please RSVP by Monday, 7th September by booking a place on:

Bodmin - For Sat 19th September

<https://v1.bookwhen.com/8a7eg/201509190000/pfn>

Truro For Thurs 24th September -

<https://v1.bookwhen.com/8a7eg/201509240000/z73>

Any queries or difficulties please email: Lois Wild

lois.wild@transformation-cornwall.org.uk

or telephone Church House 01872 274351 Ext 205



32 ecumenical pilgrims recently back from Abbaye de Landevennec, Brittany. Read about their experiences inside this newsletter.

**Churches Together Tent
Royal Cornwall Show,
4th - 6th June 2015**



Eve of Show Service,
*Wednesday, 3rd June, 6.30 pm in Main
Arena*

Music : *St Minver Silver Band
A local choir*

Preacher : *Revd Elizabeth Clark,
National Rural Officer, of the well-
regarded Arthur Rank Centre, which
seeks to support rural communities and
churches.*

***Pasty Supper to follow in the Churches
Tent.***

*Please join us to praise God, and to
show through our presence our support
of Cornish Agriculture.*

**All are most welcome to visit the
tent over the three show days.**

**How was the Landevennec 2015
pilgrimage for you?**

Dear Friends,

It was a privilege to share some spiritual journeying with all of you on the Landevennec Pilgrimage. Taking time out to share and to focus on such a full NT teaching with space for silent reflection was very nourishing.

Quakers like to say '*we are all unique, precious, children of God*'. Coffee (in the café), Compline and Company cemented our 'uniqueness' on this stretch of our journey.

Dear all

The pilgrimage to Landevennec has been enriching to me and such retreat is always good for me to go deeper in my journey with the Lord. It has been a special personal time to dedicate it to Him and to see that He is always present. It is just to let my door always open! The different addresses have helped me in my meditation, particularly the Gospel;- On the Road to Emmaus. And also praying with the offices and attending to the daily Holy Masses, with the monks singing! This has helped to concentrate in my prayers and to focus on Him and to love my brothers and sisters in Christ better, even if we are different!

Thank you very much for your warm welcoming in the group. I felt that I have been adopted by you, even if I was the odd one with a non-UK passport. The authorities, though a bit fussy, were doing their job! Thank you to the organisers who have succeeded to create a good fellowship amongst us. Hope to see you in Sclerder! - God bless

Dear all

Just a note from Anne and I to say how much we enjoyed our pilgrimage with you to Landevennec last week. Thank you all so much for your company, friendship and fellowship. We have been thinking a lot about our experience, and come to realise how valuable it has been. We look forward to the next one. Thank you especially to those who organised it so well - Best wishes

I was richly blessed by the experience in a lasting way. It is a wonder to think of the continuous prayer for our world which rises from the Abbey 24/7. I woke in the night and remembered that all over the world, monks are holding us up in prayer. The long silence was new to me and a wonderful thing to do. Different than the silence of living alone. I shall remember the pilgrimage with joy. Thank you

It was a privilege to be one of the pilgrims. I loved it all, the fellowship, laughter, silence, prayer in a place sanctified by centuries of prayer. I found it very helpful to look at the road to Emmaus from different angles. I thought it was the perfect time of year to go with the apple orchards in blossom and the licac in flower.

I had a very enriching experience with you all and with the monks in such beautiful surroundings. I found not understanding French very beneficial because the services, sounds, peace, voices were enriched for me. So often meaning cannot be conveyed in words and so often incorrect meaning is conveyed in words. I have always had a problem with the words when Christians say "Christ is the way" because I know there are many paths to enlightenment and people who say otherwise are clearly wrong. This I have experienced

Many thanks for the experience. I am able to see past what has been a very big barrier for me.



There was a happy atmosphere in St. Piran's Church, when Bishop Mark O'Toole arrived to confirm eight candidates into the Roman Catholic Church. A large, ecumenically minded congregation had gathered on Ascension Day and had been preceded by Solemn Choral Eucharist in the Cathedral.



In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

At the very heart of the ecumenical movement is the reality of prayer. Jesus prayed that we may all be one, united in God in the mystery of the Trinity. That is the basis and the goal of our search for unity.

The **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. Lord, hear our prayer ...

These pages are based on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle "In God's Hands - Common Prayer for the World" (ISBN 978-2825414880). The book and the website offer valuable aids for intercessory prayers, prayer on behalf of and in solidarity with others.

Share the ecumenical prayer cycle on your blog or your website!

Holy Spirit Can Accomplish the Impossible



Pope's Address to Anglican-Catholic Commission

"The cause of unity is not an optional undertaking and the differences which divide us must not be seen as inevitable.

Some wish that, after fifty years, greater progress towards unity would have been achieved. Despite difficulties, we must not lose heart, but we must trust even more in the power of the Holy Spirit, who can heal and reconcile us, and accomplish what humanly does not seem possible."

Ecumenism of blood.....

"The blood of these martyrs will nourish a new era of ecumenical commitment, a fervent desire to fulfill the last will and testament of the Lord: that all may be one," he said. "The witness by these our brothers and sisters demands that we live in harmony with the Gospel and that we strive with determination to fulfill the Lord's will for his Church. Today the world urgently needs the common, joyful witness of Christians, from the defence of life and human dignity to the promotion of justice and peace.

"Together let us invoke the gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to be able to respond courageously to 'the signs of the times' which are calling all Christians to unity and common witness."

There is a strong bond that already unites us which goes beyond all divisions: it is the testimony of Christians from different Churches and traditions, victims of persecution and violence simply because of the faith they profess. And not only now, that there are many of them: I think also of the martyrs of Uganda, half Catholics and half Anglicans.

The blood of these martyrs will nourish a new era of ecumenical commitment, a fervent desire to fulfill the last will and testament of the Lord: that all may be one (cf. *Jn 17:21*). The witness by these our brothers and sisters demands that we live in harmony with the Gospel and that we strive with determination to fulfill the Lord's will for his Church. Today the world urgently needs the common, joyful witness of Christians, from the defence of life and human dignity to the promotion of justice and peace.

Together let us invoke the gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to be able to respond courageously to "the signs of the times" which are calling all Christians to unity and common witness. May the Holy Spirit abundantly inspire your work. Many thanks for your service.

Study Day on Modern Slavery Truro Methodist Church, 11th April, 2015

**Kindly written and submitted by Sue Mills,
Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together.**

The day opened with “And can it be” and the parable of the Good Samaritan. Dr. Russell Blacker welcomed us and introduced the day: churches should be active in relieving slaves, as in William Wilberforce’s day, because the current estimate is 35.8 million people now entrapped in modern slavery. Human trafficking has grown even in the UK and our demand for cheap goods makes it worse elsewhere. Wilberforce showed what can be achieved by a few, and even if all we can do is pray that has a big impact.

The first speaker was **Baroness Caroline Cox**, who showed the revised edition of her book *This immoral trade: slavery in the 21st Century*, which looks at contemporary slavery in all its forms, demonstrating that William Wilberforce’s mission has not yet been accomplished. She outlined the four main areas of modern slavery: chattel slavery, child soldiers, sexual slavery and human trafficking and used case studies to illustrate these and demonstrate that for labour and sex trafficking Britain is both a destination and a source for victims of the illegal traffickers.

Hence the significance of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which aims to break the bonds of ignorance, silence, interests, ideology, complacency and complicity. This is an escalating evil in our world today, but individual freedom is every person’s right. William Wilberforce asked, “Will we fulfil our responsibility?” “I cannot do everything, but I must not do nothing”.

This led to the next speaker, James Ewins, a barrister and former Director of the International Justice Mission (IJM), Bangalore. IJM <https://ijm.org/> rescues and rehabilitates slaves and aims to change the balance of power and make public justice systems, such as India’s Bonded Labour Act 1976, work.

He is also a Fellow of the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) in the UK, and was involved in the development and passage of the Modern Slavery Act. Referring to Micah 6: 8 and Matthew 23:23, he said that justice is at the heart of our God, which is why we, as God’s creatures, have a sense of justice in our hearts.

On his return to the UK in 2010 he was shocked to discover, through the CSJ, the extent of slavery here: the CSJ’s report went straight to the Home Secretary and resulted in the draft Bill for Modern Slavery, which received remarkable cross-party support, going through 263 amendments before being passed this year.

It is the first such Act on the statute books, drawing together criminal provisions against trafficking from hidden sub-sections of other acts and raising the maximum punishment from five years to life, taking trafficking up on a par with murder.

There are new orders for the police and compensation for victims, plus restorative justice provisions and cross border agreements.

There is now an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, whose role as the “voice of the voiceless” is to stand up for victims regardless of the government currently in power. Child trafficking is a particular care and every public body has a mandatory duty and can be called to account, but there are still contentious issues and James appealed for our prayers. Transparency in supply chains is also needed: we are all complicit by the choices we make as consumers and should hold companies to account who do not publicise their suppliers’ details. This world leading piece of legislation should serve as an example to other countries and foreign aid could be attached to the improvement of local justice systems.

After *Amazing Grace* Dr. David Hampshire looked at Slavery in the Bible, examining slavery in the ancient world, the Old Testament, the New Testament and among the church fathers in the 2nd – 5th centuries. He concluded by referring to Leviticus’ order to look after strangers: the way we treat migrant workers just because they are strangers is anti-biblical, anti-Jewish and anti-Christian and says something about our society.

Next Dr. Muhammad Al-Husseini spoke about slavery in Islam: some Muslims have interpreted their texts to provide a theological mandate to return to slavery as part of Jihad. He said that our government goes along with this when it supports Saudi-Arabia, not standing by Sweden’s condemnation of Saudi abuse of human rights. He compared interpretations of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the Qu’ran in their references to slavery in pre-Islamic Arabia and looked at slavery in Islamic history.

The final part of the day was given over to local speakers and NGOs. First Paul Elliott from Crimestoppers, an independent UK registered charity, affirmed that human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world. He said that it is not only foreigners who exploit or are exploited, but that British people are sold into slavery by British gangs, even in Cornwall, where nowhere is more than 13 miles from a slave and only two thirds of migrant workers are registered.

Next the Devon and Cornwall Police Migrant Worker Team (2 officers), funded from the permit to work scheme and operating in Cornwall since January 2010, outlined the situation here. They told us how to recognize the signs of someone being held in subservience, which we should not ignore, but contact the Police, Crimestoppers, or Council Officers if we are suspicious. They mentioned that victims often turn to churches when they don’t know where to go, so we should be ready to help them. Michelle Davies, from Safer Cornwall, a multi-agency partnership making the Modern Slavery Act work locally, and the Modern Slavery Commissioner for Cornwall, reiterated that churches are often seen as places of sanctuary, so we should prepare our response.

The final speakers came from A21 <http://www.a21.org/>, Love 146 <https://love146.org/> and Stop the Traffik <http://www.stophetraffik.org/>, with moving stories of human trafficking and charitable projects to help combat it and support the victims. One of them mentioned that Falmouth Harbour is a major port for buying and selling slaves. We were again urged not to ignore anything suspicious, but to pass on the information.

The afternoon closed with prayers and a final hymn – *Thine be the glory*.



Pictures include CTC Executive at work.
Bishop Tim with Chemin Neuf Christians from Sclerder Abbey.
Pictures of main worship area in Abbaye de Landevennec.
Abbott of Abbaye de Landevennec talking with pilgrims.
Pilgrims engaged in one of four addresses "on the road to Emmaus."
Statue of Saint Guènolè or St Gwenole in Breton or St Wynwallow in Cornish.